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PANTHER DAM

Proponents of conservation the country over have cause to rejoice with the people of New York who on November 8 delivered a 3 to 1 defeat to the latest attempt to use 1,500 acres of the state-owned Adirondack Forest Preserve for proposed Panther Mountain dam. It was to have been on the south branch of Moose River in the southwestern portion of the Forest Preserve.

In 1954 New Yorkers amended their State Constitution to invest authority in the people to decide when and where dams should be built in the public forest. Now they have shown they don't rubber-stamp their approval on proposed amendments, despite the fact that about 40 consecutive amendments prior to this were approved.

The November 8 vote is particularly heartening for, as the New York Times says editorially, "The resounding defeat of Amendment 7, the Panther Dam and reservoir proposal, should serve as notice for a long time to come that the people of New York will not surrender to invasion of the Adirondack Forest Preserve."

MIANUS GORGE

The Mianus Gorge Preserve is now a reality with 60 acres acquired by Nature Conservancy last summer through the efforts of the Mianus River Gorge Conservation Committee. It is expected that additional tracts will be acquired in the future, partly by gift, so that this magnificent hemlock and hardwood forest in its gorge setting may be preserved.

Officers of the Mianus River Gorge Conservation Committee are Robert J. Hamerslag, chairman; Mrs. Malcolm M. Edgerton, Mrs. Kenneth C. Faile, and James H. Sachs, vice-chairmen; and Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Anable, secretary and treasurer.

A research committee will study the gorge, located on the boundary of Westchester County, New York and Connecticut. Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, Connecticut College, New London, is chairman of the committee, and leaders are being named to list the reptiles and amphibians, fish, birds, and plants.

WATERSHED CONGRESS

The Second National Watershed Congress will be held December 5 and 6 in the Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. Among the important topics to be discussed at this two-day meeting will be watershed management, irrigation, flood control, pollution abatement, forestry, and wildlife. Foremost authorities will address the Congress, but most of the time will be devoted to floor discussion. All interested persons are invited to attend.

LITTLE MTN. STATE PARK

On August 18, 1955, the State of Alabama, acting through William Drinkard, director of the State Department of Conservation, signed a contract allowing the Davis Lumber Company of Cullman, Alabama, to commence logging operations in 3,740 acres of Little Mountain State Park. The contract provides for cutting of trees down to one foot in diameter. Purpose of the operation is said to be to provide funds for "developing" the park.

The park is near Gunthersville, on the shore of Gunthersville Lake. It was formerly owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which gave it to the State of Alabama in August 1947. The park area includes the embayments of Town and Short Creeks which rise on Sand Mountain and enter the lake at the bottom of long narrow gorges. The slopes of these gorges are covered with a fine stand of mixed pine and hardwood timber. Much of it in Town Creek may be original growth.

Local opposition to the cutting program has developed rapidly since operations began in September. This has resulted in a speed-up of the cut. Opponents of the cutting charge that it is being carried on in an extremely careless and wasteful manner. According to Ida Will Smith of Gunthersville (*Birmingham Post-Herald*, 10/11/55): "Hundreds of trees have been cut with stumps left from three to five feet high. Tree tops, some more than ten inches in diameter at the base, litter the area. Many trees not actually cut for timber have been damaged and left to survive--if

they can. No effort has been made to preserve trees along the scenic drive through the park."

The law governing Alabama state parks defines the term "park" as meaning "any area of land primarily valuable for recreational purposes because of its scenic, historic, prehistoric, archeologic, scientific, or other distinctive characteristics, or natural features". Critics of the logging claim it is destroying the scenic, scientific, and recreational values of the park.

TVA authorities have conferred with Drinkard and State Representative Bryce Davis, owner of the lumber company, with the result that some concessions were gained by way of promises to cease cutting of hardwoods, cut all stumps off near ground level, and install erosion control check-dams along logging roads. A state forester has now been assigned to mark trees to be cut instead of leaving this to the discretion of loggers as apparently has been done. Drinkard is said to have refused TVA's requests to spell out more clearly what parts of the park can and what parts cannot be cut and to put in writing the manner in which the amount of timber cut will be checked and accounted for by the State.

The deed conveying this tract of land without cost from TVA to the State of Alabama specified that--

"This conveyance is expressly made upon and subject to the condition that the land conveyed be used only as a state park for public recreation in accordance with generally recognized standards of state park operation in the State of Alabama, and for no other purpose or purposes."

The deed further stipulated that--

"- upon breach of said condition, the party of the first part and its successors shall have the right to re-enter and take possession of said property and to hold, own, and possess the same in the same manner and to the same extent as if this conveyance had never been made."

Needless to say, there seems to be a bit of a shortcoming in a deed that provides for re-entry and repossession by the donor if the recipient doesn't follow his own standards. Nevertheless, under the present conditions there can be no justification for failure of TVA as agent of the people of the United States to delay repossessing this land and putting a stop to this tragic destruction.

TVA is understandably hesitant to jeopardize its relations with the state government, but this should not go so far as to allow wholesale destruction of an irreplaceable natural asset in which the American people have a rightful interest.

Headquarters of the Alabama Department of Conservation are in Montgomery, Alabama, while TVA headquarters are in Knoxville, Tennessee. Chairman of the Board of Directors of TVA is Brigadier General Herbert D. Vogel. General manager is Aubrey J. Wagner.

WHOOPIING CRANES

The Fish and Wildlife Service has reported that twenty-eight whooping cranes have arrived at the Aransas Refuge in Texas. One of the twenty-one adult birds that left for the far north last spring has not returned, but to compensate for this apparent loss there are eight young birds. This is two more than the best previous estimate.

Plans of the Army to establish a photo-flash bombing range close to the Refuge have apparently been abandoned as a result of strong opposition.

TULE ELK

The Tule or California Valley elk is threatened with extinction through impairment of its environment by grazing and by over-shooting, according to *The Alert*, publication of the Conservation Information Service. The Tule elk (*Cervus nannodes*) is a dwarf elk restricted to a small range in Owens Valley, California.

Because cattlemen want the forage the elk are eating, they have brought pressure on the California Fish and Game Commission to cut down the herd. A special hunt is scheduled for Dec. 3-11, 1955. Of the total of 301 reported animals, the permitted kill will be 150 elk in a ratio of 40 bulls to 110 cows. Fear has been expressed that if this hunt duplicates a hunt held in 1951, the herd may be reduced to so small a number that its recovery may be impossible. In fact, this is exactly what one group desires. In March, 1952, the Inyo-Mono Coordinating Council went on record as recommending the herd be wiped out.

The Los Angeles Water and Power Board owns much of the land in Owens Valley, and for some time they were favorable to having the herd. A 1933 study, made at the time the animals were introduced to Owens Valley from a paddock in Yosemite Valley, showed there was no conflict with economic interests. Domestic grazing was being reduced and agriculture eliminated by the Water and Power Board. Now, more and more cattle are being grazed on these lands.

In 1951, before the shoot, it was reliably estimated that the herd numbered 495 elk. Of these, 119 came out alive.

"The Tule elk are unique to California and are found nowhere else in the entire world," according to *The Alert*. "The issue is clearly this: should the fate of the Owens Valley herd be determined by a special interest group - the cattlemen - or by the conservationists and citizens generally of the state?"

Has man become completely indifferent to the rights of other creatures to a living place on the face of the earth? It would seem so when the agency responsible for the protection of wildlife in California decrees that the total number of one species of large mammal shall be reduced to less than 200 because of competing economic interests.

WICHITA MOUNTAINS

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay's unalterable opposition to the proposed transfer of 10,700 acres of the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma to the Department of the Army was announced on October 20, the Wildlife Management Institute reports. Answering a letter from Secretary of the Army Wilbur M. Brucker which requested outright transfer of the refuge lands, McKay wrote, "I trust that it will be possible to meet the basic needs of the Fort Sill expansion program without impairing the integrity of the Wichita Refuge."

McKay's stand against the Army on the Wichita issue may not end the matter and conservation advocates are urging the White House to support McKay in his stand.



American Refugees

METTLER'S WOODS

In July, 1952, *Nature Conservation News* reported that "Mettler's Woods, near E. Millstone, N.J., uncut since 1690, is to be logged and sold", and that "The trees are already marked".

On October 15, 1955, a dedication ceremony was held marking the successful culmination of a long and vigorous campaign to save the woods. This campaign was led by the Citizens' Committee for the Preservation of Mettler's Woods. The tract will be known as the William L. Hutchinson Memorial Forest in memory of the late president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The Brotherhood, as well as many other individuals and organizations contributed sufficient money to purchase the area and to set up the Rutgers University Forest Ecological Project for its long term protection and study.

"PLANNING FOR GROWTH"

All over America population growth and accompanying economic activity and expansion are changing the face of the land. Our open wild lands are disappearing and at the same time our farm lands are being gobbled up by land hungry developers and builders. California perhaps as much as anywhere is showing this trend. "Planning for Growth", a report on the status of city and county planning in California, has been prepared by the Subcommittee on County and Community Planning of the State Assembly. This volume, available for \$1.15 from the Assembly in Sacramento, provides an interesting analysis of the tremendous planning problem facing us. The following clipping illustrates the importance of this subject in the conservation picture. It is one of a series of articles run in the *Sacramento Bee* on the "Planning for Growth" report.

Santa Clara County Zone Plan Aims At Saving Farm Land

By Tom Arden

There are ways to solve vexing planning problems and the committee cites results obtained by Santa Clara County in changing a policy of permitting residential subdivision development anywhere at any time.

The lawmakers noted some 89,000 acres of agricultural land were converted to other uses between 1946 and 1953 in the county.

"A continuation of this rate of disappearance would eliminate all farm land in the Santa Clara Valley by 1960," the committee said.

Would Check Destruction

"To check this aimless destruction of agricultural resources, the county board of supervisors amended the county zoning ordinance in September, 1953, to create an agricultural district or A zone.

"The new zoning says in effect:

"This is good farm land. Its soil is more suitable for agriculture than for other uses. It contributes valuable food resources and supports much of the county's industry and employment. It has esthetic value and makes the county a more pleasant place to live. Therefore this soil shall be used exclusively for agriculture and its farmers shall be protected against urban taxes and urban interference with farm operations."

Long Range Plan

"It is hoped in Santa Clara County to relate the A zoning to a long range plan for greenbelts separating well defined communities, thus providing a reserve for parks and public lands to meet the needs of future generations.

"The past history in Santa Clara County has been a case of letting nature take its course versus channelizing, directing and guiding the tremendous development energies available and working in the bay area.

"The object lesson of Santa Clara County can be repeated with a different case of characters and with varying implications throughout the state.

"It was summed up by County of Santa Clara Planning Director Karl Belser who said: 'For a long time we've known how to subdivide land. What we need to know now is where and when to subdivide.'

Not Complete Answer

The committee points out zoning itself, however, is not the complete answer and it emphasizes the master planning program for metropolitan regions must recognize the need for all forms of economic activity. Administrative mechanics must be developed, the committee believes, to make it economically possible for people to farm.

This view is shared by Allen F. Mather of Sacramento, executive secretary of the Agricultural Council of California.

"It may be profitable to examine what currently seems to be thought of as a necessity for raising assessment on adjoining farm lands when a subdivision has been built," Mather is quoted in the report. "In short, perhaps more realistic assessment practices will solve many of the economic problems which have been raised."

The committee indicated its approval of a statement by Robert E. Hanley, representing the California Farm Bureau Federation.

"We request continued study of zoning, planning and land use problems and programs with the objective of developing a practical means by which needless exploitation of farm lands can be avoided or minimized and economical and practical procedures of urbanization can be developed," Hanley told the committee.



I.U.P.N.

A six-month mission involving visits to more than 30 countries has been completed for the Survival Service of the International Union for the Protection of Nature by Lee Merriam Talbott, graduate of the University of California. Purpose of the expedition was to determine the status of such threatened species as the Asiatic rhinoceros, Indian lion, Kashmir stag, and Arabian oryx. The animals concerned are native to some of the remotest parts of the Middle East and southern Asia. Little reliable information has previously been available concerning their current status. Contacts made and information obtained by Mr. Talbott are expected to have a beneficial effect on nature protection in the countries visited.

PHOTO: Asiatic rhinoceros by Talbott.

CONSERVANCY NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Mr. Elting Arnold, 4914 Dorset Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, was elected secretary of Nature Conservancy at the annual meeting on September 6 in East Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Arnold is an attorney with the U.S. Treasury Department and is active in the District of Columbia Audubon Society. He succeeds Daniel Smiley of Mohonk Lake, N. Y., who was elected as a governor. Re-elected to office were Mr. Richard H. Pough, president and Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg, vice-president. Governors re-elected are Mr. Ernest Brooks, Jr., Mr. Devin A. Garrity, Dr. Herbert A. McCullough, Dr. M. Graham Netting, Mr. James B. Ross, and Dr. Robert W. Schery. New governors include Mr. George Dock, Jr. of New York City; Dr. Reed W. Fautin, University of Wyoming, Laramie; Mr. Robert J. Hamerslag, Katonah, N. Y.; and Dr. Aaron J. Sharp, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Continuing in office are Dr. Joseph J. Hickey, treasurer, and the following governors: Dr. Conrad Chapman, Dr. Frank E. Egler, Mr. Albert M. Fuller, Mr. C. M. Goethe, Mr. William Hard, Dr. Paul A. Herbert, Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, Dr. Armin K. Lobeck, Dr. Karl A. Menninger, Dr. E. Laurence Palmer, Mr. Robert L. Perkins, Jr., Dr. Paul B. Sears, Dr. Adolph M. Stebler, Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Mr. William Vogt, and Mr. Alvin G. Whitney.

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It is with sadness that we report the sudden passing of Dr. John E. Potzger in Indianapolis on September 18. Dr. Potzger, a member of the Board of Governors since 1951, held the position of professor of botany at Butler University and was a foremost authority on pollen analysis of peat bogs as an indicator of past

climatic conditions. Just a few days before his death he had given his address as retired president of the Ecological Society of America.

HONORARY MEMBERS ELECTED

As a small token of the esteem in which they are held by Nature Conservancy and a small recognition of what they have done for natural area preservation, Leslie N. Goodding of St. David, Arizona; Alvin G. Whitney of Delmar, N. Y.; and R. M. Strong of Chicago, Illinois, were elected to honorary membership. Mr. Goodding and Mr. Whitney have for the past several years been representatives of Nature Conservancy in their respective states where they have performed outstanding service. Dr. Strong has for many years served as chairman of the Conservation Council of Chicago and through his efforts in this position has done much to promote the preservation of natural areas.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Minutes of the annual membership meeting and the meetings of the Board of Governors are available to members on request. Also available are summaries of Nature Conservancy policies and the following new publications:

Nature Conservancy Manual of Territorial and Project Operations, adopted September, 1955.

Problems of Land Acquisition, Information Bulletin 14.

Current Land Disposal Policies of the United States Government, Information Bulletin 15.

Nature Conservancy Policies Concerning Acquisition of Land for Preservation, Information Bulletin 16.

Nature Conservancy Policies Concerning Management of an Area Acquired for Preservation, Information Bulletin 17.

POPULATION STUDIES

"The pre-war net daily gain of births over deaths was about 60,000", says Robert C. Cook, Director of the Population Reference Bureau, in the November issue of the *Population Bulletin*. "Today, nearly 100,000 people are added to world numbers every 24 hours. Far more effective drugs and new medical and public health techniques have become available to reduce disease and relieve human suffering since the close of World War II. The resulting drastic decline in death rates in many lands accounts for most of this rapid increase."

The *Population Bulletin* serves as a medium for publication of population data gathered and correlated by the Population Reference Bureau. Each of the eight issues per year analyzes one or more phases of the population situation. The November number, for instance, presents an account of the history and status of population activities in the United Nations. The October issue, titled "Born to live--but how long?" discusses infant mortality. The August issue presents a symposium on "hidden hunger" as a cause of world tension and several other interesting studies.

Because of the particular interest readers of *Nature Conservation News* have in population problems, Dr. Cook has generously offered to send a sample copy of a recent issue of *Population Bulletin* on request. Direct your letter to Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1507 M Street, N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

"THE EASY CHAIR"

"The Easy Chair", Bernard DeVoto's monthly feature in *Harpers* has for the past two months been concerned with matters of especial interest. The September article, titled "Hell's Half Acre, Mass.", is an account of the plight of a small natural area on the outskirts of Boston and the efforts of some young naturalist friends of DeVoto's to save it. "Outdoor Metropolis" in the October issue tells of the impact of tourist business on New England. U.S. 1, said DeVoto, is a linear slum for much of its length. Because of the intensity of use, vacationland blight is even more evident in New England than elsewhere and this discussion takes on added significance as a case study of a condition that is present in varying degrees nearly everywhere. These two articles are well worth reading.

On November 14 Bernard DeVoto, 58, died of a heart attack. DeVoto, a prolific writer, was well known by conservationists for his defense of our natural resources, especially the public lands. The November *Harpers* marked the 20th anniversary of his editorial feature, "The Easy Chair", and in this he gave his own review of his writings.

PARKS AND INTEGRATION

The Supreme Court on November 7 ruled that segregation in public parks is unconstitutional. Effect of the ruling on the preservation of natural conditions in certain of the southern park systems remains in question at this time as politicians voice proposals that parks be turned over to private agencies.

NEW BOOKS

STATE PARK LAWS are summarized in the "Digest of Laws Relating to State Parks" by Flavel Shurtleff, recently published by the National Conference on State Parks, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington 5, D. C. Price is \$3.00. A companion volume, "Digest of Laws Relating to Local Parks and Recreation" published in 1940 by the Government Printing Office is now out-of-print. These volumes are sources of essential information for anyone active in natural area preservation work.

GUIDES TO CAMP SITES are included in three recently published volumes: "The Handbook of Auto Camping and Motorist's Guide to Public Campgrounds" and "The Auto Camper's Guide to Canada" are both by George and Iris Wells and published by Harper & Bros. They are priced at \$3.00 each. "Tent Camper's Guide to New England and New York State Camping Areas" by Don Parry is published by Outdoor Publishers, Rocky Hill, Conn., and sells for \$1.00. These volumes are handy compilations of information, both from the standpoint of camping and keeping track of preserved areas.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION takes a step forward with the publication of the "Handbook for Teaching of Conservation and Resource-Use". This 499-page volume was prepared by the National Conservation Committee of the National Association of Biology Teachers under the leadership of Richard L. Weaver. It is the result of three years of intensive work by a large number of volunteer participants. Included are accounts of many actual conservation teaching projects that have been tried. A section on use of the school grounds in teaching conservation includes chapters on Outdoor Laboratories, Landscaping, Nature Trails and Nature Centers, Sanctuaries, Soil and Water Conservation on the School Grounds, and School Gardens. The book is available from the National Association of Biology Teachers, P.O. Box 2073, Ann Arbor, Michigan, for \$4.

Another conservation teaching book that deserves mention is "A Guide to Teaching Happy Living through Conservation", by E. Laurence Palmer, published in 1953 by the International Union for the Protection of Nature. This valuable 66-page pamphlet describes numerous simple exercises that can be used in conservation teaching anywhere with little or no expense. Available from I.U.P.N., 1214 16th St. N.W., Washington D. C. for \$1.00 a copy.

"Seeing America's Wildlife in our National Refuges", by Devereux Butcher, has just been published by the Devin-Adair Company, New York. Those who know Mr. Butcher's "Exploring our National Parks and Monuments" and "Exploring the National Parks of Canada" or who read *National Parks Magazine* of which he is editor, will not be surprised at the excellent quality of the present volume. The main body of this lavishly illustrated 338-page book consists of descriptions of the principal national wildlife refuges. The volume was prepared under the auspices of Defenders of Furbearers and follows personal visits by Mr. Butcher to the refuges discussed. Price \$5.00 cloth, \$2.50 paper; may be obtained through Nature Conservancy.

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SCHOOL NATURAL AREAS

NATURAL AREAS FOR SCHOOLS are receiving increased attention. The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Nature Conservancy held on October 8 was centered on this topic. Sessions were held in two schools in Natick, Mass. One, an elementary school, has a 100 acre nature preserve of its own. The other, the new Natick High School, is situated on a fine tract that includes a natural lake, woods, and other features. Teachers from the two schools explained the ways in which these wonderful assets are being used in the educational programs.

Says Dr. John W. Brainerd, Nature Conservancy representative for Massachusetts:

"Nine new schools out of ten (a conservative estimate, I feel sure) have their grounds planned with very little thought for the outdoor study areas so needed for conservation education. You probably know of a new school where almost the entire grounds have been bull-

When a naturalist who has loved and observed the flora or fauna of an area records his findings, he adds greatly to our knowledge of the landscape. E.W. Fell has done this in "Flora of Winnebago County, Ill." Winnebago Co. is on the northern boundary of Illinois where prairie and forest habitats come together. The author records the geology and climate, the types of habitat (prairie, woods, sand, and wet areas) and describes and locates on maps the plant refuges and parks. Line drawings of 87 kinds of plants are included in the 207 pages. The local occurrence and characteristics of 1210 vascular plants that grow without cultivation are given in the annotated list. Included are 24 ferns, 89 native grasses, 14 native willows, and 27 asters. Published by Nature Conservancy. Paper bound \$2.75, cloth \$3.50.

dozed and graded to give that campus-type, new-look effect. The result is a biological desert when compared to the woods, fields, marshes, and swamps that have been destroyed. The resulting damage to the education of this and future generations is pitiful and irrevocable.

"Must all our school grounds be laid out by a cookie-cutter technique so communities can have that secure feeling of knowing that they are in style, a part of an accepted nation-wide pattern (of neosuburban stupidity)? Or can school grounds be planned after careful analysis of local resources so as to be able to teach people about their local environment, about the natural resources upon which their lives depend? . . . We must help school administrators, school boards, landscape architects, and taxpayers in general to understand better these needs of our teachers so that we can conserve sample habitats for education."

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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.